**Trustees Meeting – 17th February 2021**

**Project Update**

**Overview**

The project has got off to a good start with much excitement amongst the project team and a lot of encouragement from individuals within the churches in Ledbury. Peter and I presented the project to St Michaels PCC on the 21st January and, after lengthy discussion and interest, the PCC unanimously agreed their support and endorsement for the project. We have also been asked to make a presentation to the Methodist Church later this month.

The project team met for the fourth time on the 12th February and the team is bonding well and working together to establish the foundations of the project. There are also several initiatives that are up and running already, some of which are highlighted below. Anna joined us for the meeting and was able to meet most of the team.

We await news about the final agreement of the Diocese to our funding bid, but we believe that should be with us soon.

There is a lot to be encouraged by and also a need to keep engaging with those who are still not fully understanding of the role of LEAF and its relationship with the individual churches. We will continue to work to help people recognise the importance of LEAF and to hopefully involve them in the work we do.

**Administration**

The project team have been made aware of the importance of a structured approach to the activities that LEAF undertakes, including the need for risk assessments for each activity, the keeping of data about those activities and also the importance of the ‘stories’ of how LEAF has bought changes to people’s lives. A standard risk assessment matrix is being drawn up for use by the project team and people have been asked to make sure that ‘data and stories’ are kept and then sent monthly to Tracy, our project secretary who will store this information.

As such, we need appropriate policies to be agreed by the Trustees in respect of Safeguarding, GDPR and Health and Safety so that these can be incorporated into the working life of the organisation.

The project team have also been reviewing a proposed ‘Christian Ethos’ document that we want to adopt for LEAF and this will be shared in full at today’s meeting.

**Activities**

Activities already taking place include two Alpha courses, one daytime (physically meeting for people in recovery) and one online in the evening, CAP has been set up and the team await referrals of people to it, six people and one couple are engaging with counselling and therapy, the pastoral team continue to support people on the fringes of or outside of church, evening ecumenical worship with additional leaders being involved, Thursday prayer continues and Open The Book continues through the production of videos to be used by schools and through live zoom links at Eastnor.

The ‘Real Easter Egg’ activity is also underway and a video has been produced inviting people to donate towards the cost of this, which is likely to be around £550. This project has gained much interest in Ledbury and also from the Diocesan office.

New initiatives being considered and worked on are ‘Kintsugi Hope’ – a project aimed at improving people’s mental health through the repair of pottery, the running of a marriage course based on the HTB model, the setting up of a ‘Death Café’, the provision for a ‘Holiday Club’ for children in the Summer, an Easter Egg Trail (in the fashion of the Advent Trail already done here) and we will also be looking at the opportunity to set up a GP linked Chaplaincy.

We look forward to being able to set up a joint meeting of the Trustees and Project Team sometime after Easter, which will allow everyone to get to know each other better. Your prayers and support are very much appreciated as we work together to grow God’s Kingdom in Ledbury. Seeds are being planted and there is much grow awaited as we seek God’s guidance for all we do.